# Course Approval Form

**Action Requested:**  
- X Create new course  
- [ ] Inactivate existing course  
- Modify existing course (check all that apply)  
  - [ ] Title  
  - [ ] Prereq/coreq  
  - [ ] Schedule Type  
  - [ ] Restrictions  
  - [ ] Credits  
  - [ ] Repeat Status  
  - [ ] Grade Type

**Course Level:**  
- X Undergraduate  
- [ ] Graduate

**College/School:**  
- Science  

**Submitted by:**  
- Paul Delamater

**Department:**  
- GGS

**Ext:**  
- 3-1217  

**Email:**  
- pdelamat@gmu.edu

**Subject Code:**  
- GGS

**Number:**  
- 340

**Effective Term:**  
- Fall  
- Spring  
- Summer  
- Year 2016

**Credits:**  
- Fixed  
- Variable  
- (check one)  
- 3

**Repeat Status:**  
- Not Repeatable (NR)  
- Repeatability within degree (RD)  
- Repeatability within term (RT)  
- (check one)  
- Maximum credits allowed:  

**Grade Mode:**  
- X Regular (A, B, C, etc.)  
- Satisfactory/No Credit  
- Special (A, B, C, etc. vIP)  
- (check one)

**Schedule Type:**  
- Lecture (LEC)  
- Lab (LAB)  
- Recitation (RCT)  
- Internship (INT)  
- (check one)

**Instructional Mode:**  
- 100% face-to-face  
- Hybrid: ≤50% electronically delivered  
- 100% electronically delivered

**Fulfills Mason Core Req?** (undergrad only)  
- Currently fulfills requirement  
- Submission in progress

**Title:**  
- Current  
- Banner (90 characters max w/ spaces)  
- Health Geography  
- New  
- Health Geography

**Prerequisite(s):**
- Course in statistics

**Corequisite(s):**

**Restrictions Enforced by System:** Major, College, Degree, Program, etc. (include code)

**Equivalencies:** (check only as applicable)  
- YES, course is 100% equivalent to:  
- YES, course is being renumbered  
- To will replace the following:

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**Catalog Copy for NEW Courses Only** (Consult University Catalog for models)

**Description:** (No more than 60 words, use verb phrases and present tense)  
Spatial approaches to the study of health and disease. Topics include disease ecology and diffusion, and geographic perspectives on improving health care delivery.

**Notes:** (List additional information for the course)

**Indicate number of contact hours:**

**When Offered:** (check all that apply)  
- X Fall  
- Summer  
- Spring

**Hours of Lecture or Seminar per week:**  
- 3

**Hours of Lab or Studio:**

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**Approval Signatures**

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**For Graduate Courses Only**

Graduate Council Member  
Provost Office  
Graduate Council Approval Date

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For Registrar Office's Use Only: Banner  
Catalog  
revised 6/22/15
Course Proposal Submitted to the College of Science Curriculum Committee (COSCC)

The form above is processed by the Office of the University Registrar. This second page is for the COSCC’s reference. Please complete the applicable portions of this page to clearly communicate what the form above is requesting.

FOR ALL COURSES (required)
Course Number and Title: GGS 340: Health Geography

FOR NEW COURSES
- Reason for the New Course: Undergraduate version of the course offered in tandem with existing graduate course, GGS 540: Health Geography. Course is currently and has been previously offered under a GGS omnibus number (399).
- Relationship to Existing Programs: Currently being added as an elective in the Systematic Geography requirement in the B.S. in Geography, B.A. in Geography, and Minor in Geography.
- Relationship to Existing Courses: Previously offered as a GGS 399, Selected Topics in Geography course
- Semester of Initial Offering: Fall 2017
- Proposed Instructors: Paul Delamater

APPROVALS:
GGS Curriculum Committee – Nov 10, 2015
GGS Departmental Vote – Nov 11, 2015
GGS 399: Health Geography
Course Syllabus, Fall 2015, 3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR
Name: Dr. Paul L. Delamater
Office: 2407 Exploratory Hall
Email: pdelamat@gmu.edu
Phone: 703-993-1217

COURSE BASICS
Meeting times: Monday, 7:20-10pm
Location: 2310 Exploratory Hall
Web location: Blackboard
Office hours: Wed 1-3pm, Thur 4:30-6pm, or by appt

REGISTRATION DATES
Drop without tuition penalty: September 8, 2015
Drop with tuition penalties: September 9 - October 2, 2015

REQUIRED TEXT

Make sure to get the Third Edition! Available at the GMU Bookstore or from Amazon.

OVERVIEW & OBJECTIVES
GGS 399 surveys health geography, a subdiscipline of geography which encompasses a broad range of topics regarding human and environmental health. At its core, health geography is the study of human-environment interactions and the influence of these interactions on population health - i.e., how people interact with their physical and social environment to promote health and wellbeing or to increase their vulnerability to disease and/or illness. The approach taken in this course will focus on examining health-related issues (e.g., disease, illness, health care access, nutrition) from the perspective of populations. Major health issues and health care systems from around the world will be evaluated and discussed. The course covers three major integrated approaches to health geographic research: ecological (relationships between people and their environment), social (human behavior), and spatial (mapping and spatial analysis).

ASSIGNMENTS & EXPECTATIONS
All assignments will be available on Blackboard. Assignments must be submitted electronically through Blackboard prior to the due date/time. Late submissions will be penalized 20% for each day late. Late submissions will only go unpunalyzed for the usual documented medical reasons or by previous agreement with the instructor.

Weekly meetings will include both lecture- and discussion-based material. All students are expected to not only attend class, but also be active participants. I encourage healthy, constructive discussion of the course material. I operate under the assumption and requirement that everyone will be respectful of their fellow classmates in this endeavor.

GRADING SCHEMA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>% (of final grade)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments (5)</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grades will be based on the following cutoff values, although I reserve the right to modify the exact values at the end of the course:
GGS 399: A (93%), A- (90%), B+ (87%), B (83%), B- (80%), C+ (77%), C (73%), C- (70%), D (60%)

The midterm exam will cover the first 7 weeks of the course. The final exam will be semi-comprehensive, focusing on the final 7 weeks of the course, but also covering key topics from throughout the entire semester.
There will be 3-4 ungraded pop quizzes during the semester. The quizzes will be used to evaluate how well the course information is being presented and retained; they also provide an opportunity to preview potential exam questions.
**OUTLINE & SCHEDULE** (subject to change)

*NOTE 1:* The assignment dates below refer to the date they are assigned (due dates are provided for each assignment).

*NOTE 2:* Readings identified as “Chp X” are Meade and Emch. Additional readings will be provided on Blackboard. For the readings, the dates below refer to the date they are expected to be completed (e.g., you will be expected to have read and be ready to discuss Chapters 1 & 2 when you come to class on 9/14).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture Topics</th>
<th>Readings / Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/31 M</td>
<td>Introduction to GGS 399&lt;br&gt;Questions in Health Geography, Defining Health</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9/7   M</td>
<td>No Class, Labor Day Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/14 M</td>
<td>Disease Ecology</td>
<td>Chp 1, Chp 2&lt;br&gt;Assignment #1, Essential Health Terms and Concepts</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/21 M</td>
<td>GIS, Maps, and Spatial Analysis in Health Geography</td>
<td>Chp 3, Chp 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/28 M</td>
<td>Landscape Epidemiology</td>
<td>Chp 4, Root and Emch 2010&lt;br&gt;Assignment #2, Diseases and Study Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/5 M</td>
<td>Demographic and Epidemiological Transitions</td>
<td>Chp 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/13 T</td>
<td>Climate and Weather Environmental Exposure</td>
<td>Chp 6 (207-236), Chp 7&lt;br&gt;Assignment #3, EpInfo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/19 M</td>
<td>Neighborhoods and Health Review for Midterm Exam</td>
<td>Chp 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/26 M</td>
<td>MIDTERM EXAM</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/2 M</td>
<td>Political Ecology of Noncommunicable Diseases</td>
<td>Chp 8&lt;br&gt;Assignment #4, Demographic and Epidemiological Transitions</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/9 M</td>
<td>Disease Diffusion in Space</td>
<td>Chp 10, Sabel et al 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/16 M</td>
<td>Health Care and Health Promotion&lt;br&gt;Health Care Access</td>
<td>Chp 11&lt;br&gt;Assignment #5, Health Care Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/23 M</td>
<td>Health in Africa, the Middle East, Europe, Asia</td>
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<td>11/30 M</td>
<td>Health in Western Pacific, Americas</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/7 M</td>
<td>Course Wrap Up and Case Studies&lt;br&gt;Review for Final Exam</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/14 M</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
GMU has an Honor Code with clear guidelines regarding academic integrity. Three fundamental and rather simple principles to follow at all times are that: (1) all work submitted be your own; (2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and (3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification. No grade is important enough to justify academic misconduct. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions.

GMU EMAIL ACCOUNTS
Students must use their MasonLive email account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. See http://masonlive.gmu.edu for more information.

OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES
If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474, http://ods.gmu.edu. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS.

RESOURCES
The Writing Center: http://writingcenter.gmu.edu
University Libraries, Ask a Librarian: http://library.gmu.edu/ask
Counseling and Psychological Services: http://caps.gmu.edu
University Catalog: http://catalog.gmu.edu
University Policies: http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu